

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In response to the Final Office Action dated August 23, 2006, claim 1 has been amended and claim 6 has been canceled. Claims 1-5 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

The indication that claims 4 and 5 are allowable, and that claim 6 is objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is acknowledged and appreciated.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stefik.

To expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of dependent claim 6, now canceled. Consequently, as dependent claim 6 has been objected to, amended independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable, as are dependent claims 2 and 3.


CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: November 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Charles Gorenstein

Registration No.: 29,271

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant